MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

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A BOTTLE CAP– MORE THAN A LID

Claude Hatcher moved production of RC Cola from the basement of his pharmacy (est. 1905) to this factory in 1911. *Courtesy of the Columbus Museum.*

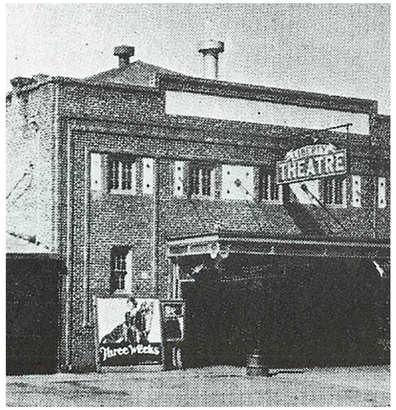
This large brick building housed the soft drinks manufacturer RC Cola. In the mid-20th century, six RC bottle caps allowed African American children free access to the movies at Liberty Theatre a few blocks south.

This image was developed for display in stores selling RC Cola (ca mid 1950s). From Royal Crown Cola Company Records (MC 204). Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.

Located at the northeastern corner of the Liberty District, during the Jim Crow period this neighborhood was home to residences and a vibrant black commercial district of doctors, lawyers, restaurants and stores. Like RC Cola, the district's Liberty Theatre was a white-owned institution. Hosting entertainers such as "Ma" Rainey, a Columbus native known as the "Mother of the Blues" and blues singer Bessie Smith, it also regularly showed movies.

During the 1950's and 60's, RC Cola and the Liberty Theatre developed a fondly-remembered promotion. RC sold its bottles of soda in six packs. The Liberty Theatre agreed to give free admission for patrons who presented six RC bottle caps at the ticket booth. When money was short, African American boys and girls saw many movies through this agreement.

RC Cola bottle cap. Six of these could get movie goers into see a film at the Liberty Theatre. *Courtesy of the Columbus Museum.*



Built in 1924 by white business owner Roy E. Martin, this 600-seat theater, at the time the largest in Columbus, was built to service the African American community. It is now only one of a handful of theaters still standing of its type in Georgia. *Courtesy of the Columbus Museum.*

This bottle cap promotion had its roots in a 1946 African American customer preference survey in Baltimore which revealed that RC Cola ranked lowest (16%), after Pepsi (45%) and Coca Cola (25%). Just as the post-war sugar rationing lifted in 1947, RC Cole began a national campaign. Marketing directly to black audiences, it asked celebrities to taste test RC versus other colas. One such advert included the African American jazz trumpeter Oren Thaddeus "Hot Lips" Page. Page, who had played with the likes of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Count Basie and Charlie Parker, was quoted in the advertisement saying:

"My blues just blew away" he said "when I found RC! I took the famous taste test—tried leading colas in paper cups. RC won in a breeze."

Subsequently, Royal Crown used images of both blue collar and young black models, sending the message that RC Cola was for everyone.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT AT THE 'Y'

The Y offered African Americans a place to call home and to train the city's young civil rights activists.

A.J. McClung at his desk in the USO office ca. early 1940s. From A.J. McClung Papers and Collection MC 200. *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

Built in 1965, this brick-faced YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was named in honor of Arthur Joseph "A.J." McClung (1912–2002). The first black YMCA in the US was located in Columbus in 1907 on 9th Street, several blocks west of this site. There, the young A.J. McClung led efforts to ensure that African American residents were engaged, educated, enriched, and empowered through the Y, and its sister association the USO (United Services Organization). Ultimately A.J. McClung would lead his city.

A.J. McClung, Executive Direction of the YMCA. Date unknown. A.J. McClung Papers and Collection MC 200. *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

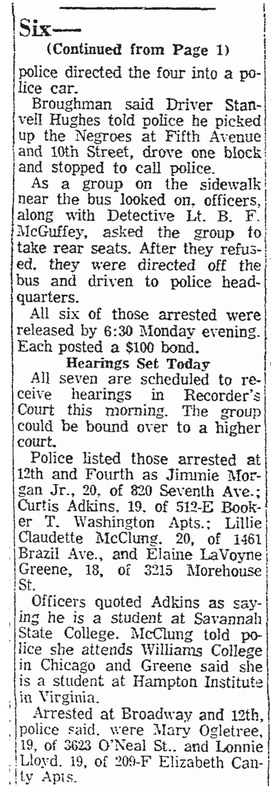
A graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, McClung trained to become a program director for the Columbus' USO. Established in 1941, USOs supported military members often far away from home. USOs created a welcoming space for African American service members, offering talent shows, musical programs, and movies. USOs in the South were segregated and were often located within African American YMCA's.

As USO director, McClung took on more leadership roles in the community and in Columbus' civil rights movement. He was able to maintain his role in those efforts in part because he was employed by a national organization, and was less likely to be intimidated by local segregationist pressures. In 1954, McClung took on the role of Executive Director of the 9th Street YMCA at the now demolished 9th Street YMCA.

Six Arrested in Attempt To Integrate City Buses

In the summer of 1961, the basement of the Y hosted training for college students where they learned nonviolent resistance tactics from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). The training prepared six young men and women who led the city's bus sit-in during the summer of 1961. The group included A.J. McClung's daughter Bunky McClung. Bunky who would eventually serve in the Carter Administration.

The city's newspaper reported the arrest of six college students who staged the first effort to desegregate the city bus system. From Bill Levy, Six Arrested in Attempt to Integrate Buses. *Ledger-Enquirer,* July 18, 1961. *Courtesy of the Ledger-Enquirer.*



Six—
(Continued from Page 1)

police directed the four into a police car.

Broughman said Driver Stanvell Hughes told police he picked up the Negroes at Fifth Avenue and 10th Street, drove one block and stopped to call police.

As a group on the sidewalk near the bus looked on, officers, along with Detective Lt. B. F. McGuffey, asked the group to take rear seats. After they refused, they were directed off the bus and driven to police headquarters.

All six of those arrested were released by 6:30 Monday evening. Each posted a $100 bond.

Hearings Set Today

All seven are scheduled to receive hearings in Recorder's Court this morning. The group could be bound over to a higher court.

Police listed those arrested at 12th and Fourth as Jimmie Morgan Jr., 20, of 820 Seventh Ave.; Curtis Adkins, 19, of 512-E Booker T. Washington Apts.; Lillie Claudette McClung, 20, of 1461 Brazil Ave., and Elaine LaVoyne Greene, 18, of 3215 Morehouse St.

Officers quoted Adkins as saying he is a student at Savannah State College. McClung told police she attends Williams College in Chicago and Greene said she is a student at Hampton Institute in Virginia.

Arrested at Broadway and 12th, police said, were Mary Ogletree, 19, of 3623 O'Neal St., and Lonnie Lloyd, 19, of 209-F Elizabeth Canty Apts.

A.J. McClung. Photographer Joe Maher, *Ledger-Enquirer,* 1975. *Courtesy of the Ledger-Enquirer.*

In the post-Civil Rights period, A.J. McClung became the first African American to serve on the Public Safety Board. After the death of Mayor J.R. Allen (1930–1973) in a plane crash, McClung served as mayor for 52 ½ days.

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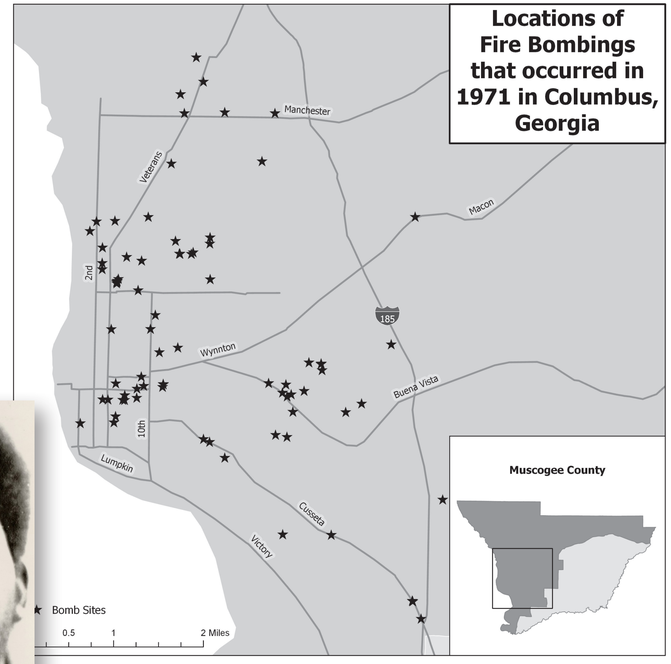
A CITY IN FLAMES

Columbus Civil Rights struggles came to a head in 1971 after the death of a young black man combined with systemic racial discrimination in the city's police force.

Joseph Hammonds and Robert T. Leonard at Columbus African American police protests press conference (1971). *Courtesy Columbus Museum.*

Though the city's police department had integrated in 1954, African American policemen were routinely given the most unpleasant tasks, few black police officers were promoted, and pay was less than their white counterparts. Early in 1971, police representatives called for change. This call for change was complicated by the death of 17-year old black youth Willie J. Osborne, shot by a white officer.

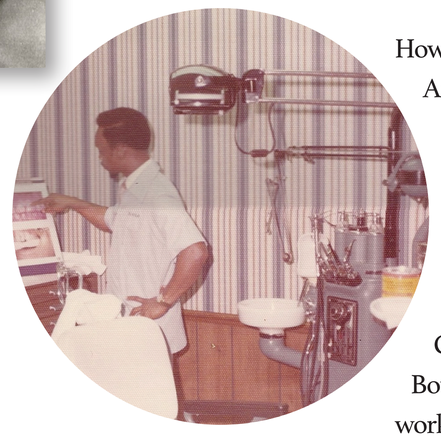


The fire bombing of white property occurred throughout the community. From research conducted by Dr. Gary Sprayberry. *Courtesy of Dr. Brad Huff, Department of History & Geography, Columbus State University.*

In response to racism, harassment, and brutality, in May 1971 members of the recently formed Afro-American Police League (AAPL) called for a strike. In protest, they tore the American flag patches from their uniforms saying, "there is no liberty or justice in the police department."

Seven black officers were fired immediately and hundreds of black residents marched through Columbus. The police department did not respond. By the end of that summer, Columbus had born witness to 140 fire-bombings of white-owned businesses, 88 of those sites have since been mapped.

In some ways this was surprising. The city had managed to escape much of the turmoil of the Civil Rights era (1954–1968) seen in cities such as Selma and Birmingham. When African Americans used direct action in protest of civil rights violations in Columbus, white city officials had acted quickly and decisively. By 1965, many Columbus businesses and public facilities had been integrated.



Interior of dental exam room c.a. mid-1970s. *Courtesy of Dr. Henry L. Cook Sr.*

However, by the 1970's, the pace of advancement for African Americans was stalled. Black unemployment rate was twice that of white unemployment. African Americans were limited to substandard housing located along unpaved and poorly lit streets, schools remained segregated, and there was little decent health care for black residents.

Black middle class professionals like the dentist Dr. Henry Cook Sr. (who's office lies across Martin Luther King Boulevard), sought to address these broader concerns by working in partnership with U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop to attract other African American professionals to meet the medical needs of the community

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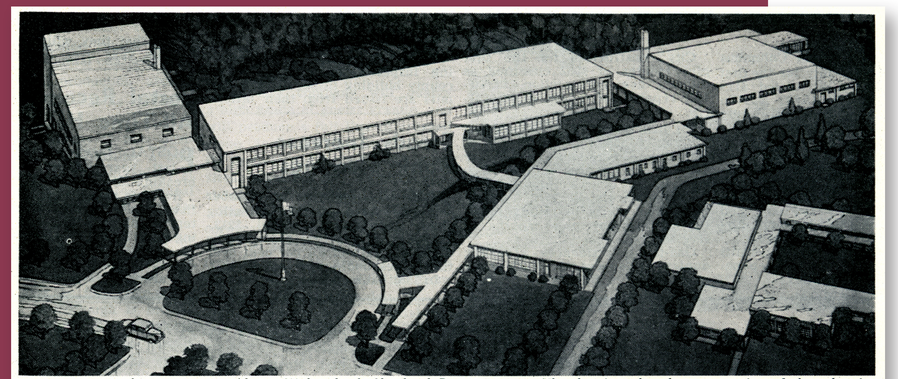
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

ACCESSING EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Celebrated by naming schools after them, the careers of Spencer and Marshall illustrate the struggles and successes for education during the segregationist Jim Crow era

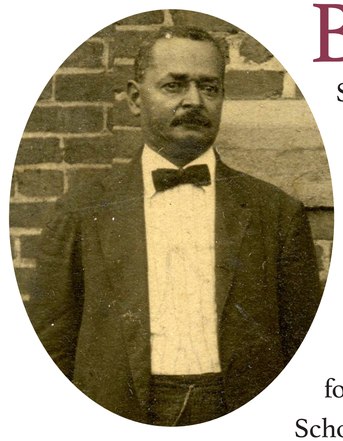


Architect s drawing of new Negro High school, Shepherd Dr., Columbus. The drawing also shows a portion of the adjoining Shepherd Dr. elementary school. The new High school will contain 41 classrooms, auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium, shops, administrative offices, physical education building and auxiliary rooms. Jordan Contracting Co. recently submitted low bid of $914,975 for constructing the new High school. This school, designed by E. Oren Smith, Columbus architect, won one of the six citations awarded for outstanding designs of educational buildings in a recent competition in Atlanta, held under the auspices of the American Institute of Architects, and attended by about 400 architects. Fifty-one architects from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina participated in this competition, with 115 mounts.

Architectural drawings of the yet-to-be named High School and Middle School on Shepherd Drive. Industrial Index. xlvii (21), 1952, p.10. *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

As you look towards the rear of the two-story school building, the site was once the home of two schools named for two prominent male educators: Spencer High and Marshall Middle schools.

Far Right: Shadrack Marshall, drawing by Antonio Mani, 1960, *Courtesy of the Columbus Museum*



Born in Columbus on the eve of the Civil War in 1857, William Henry Spencer (1857–1925) became a leading black educator in the city's public-school system. Spencer's professional life mirrored the story of African American education in the city and across the American South.

During Reconstruction Era (1865–1877), freed slaves (adults and children) sought education. The federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, supported that effort. An agency of the US Department of War, the Bureau assisted freed men and women to reconnect families after slavery, and to educate formerly enslaved citizens. In 1868, the Freedmen's Bureau established Claflin School in Columbus, where Spencer was a student.

Having graduated and taught in counties around Columbus, Spencer returned to teach in the city in 1875 and became the principal of Claflin School. He continued to rise in his profession, becoming superintendent of the county's "colored schools" in 1885. Spencer died five years before he could witness the first high school for African American students 1930. Since that time, Spencer High School has been relocated three times.

Above: William H Spencer. *Courtesy of TBD.*

1930 - 10th Ave & 8th St. at the edge of the city's black vibrant commercial and residential Liberty District

1953 - Shepard Drive *(where you now stand is the back of that school)*

1978 - Victory Drive, near Fort Benning

2018 - Fort Benning Road

Marshall Middle School was named for Shadrach R. Marshal (1867–1946). Born in Talbot County, GA and educated at Tuskegee Institute, he paid for his education by working in the Birmingham mines and the farm fields of Alabama. His career included teaching at two different Columbus schools (Sixth Avenue School and Twenty-Eighth Street Schools). He also edited a local newspaper, the Columbus Rifle. In 1908 he became principle of Claflin School, and served as both teacher and principal in the public schools of Columbus and Muscogee County for fifty years.

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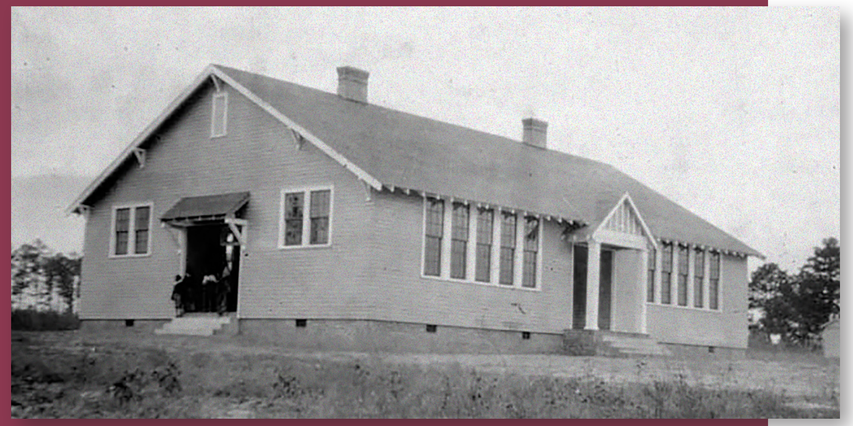
RADCLIFF - EDUCATING A COMMUNITY

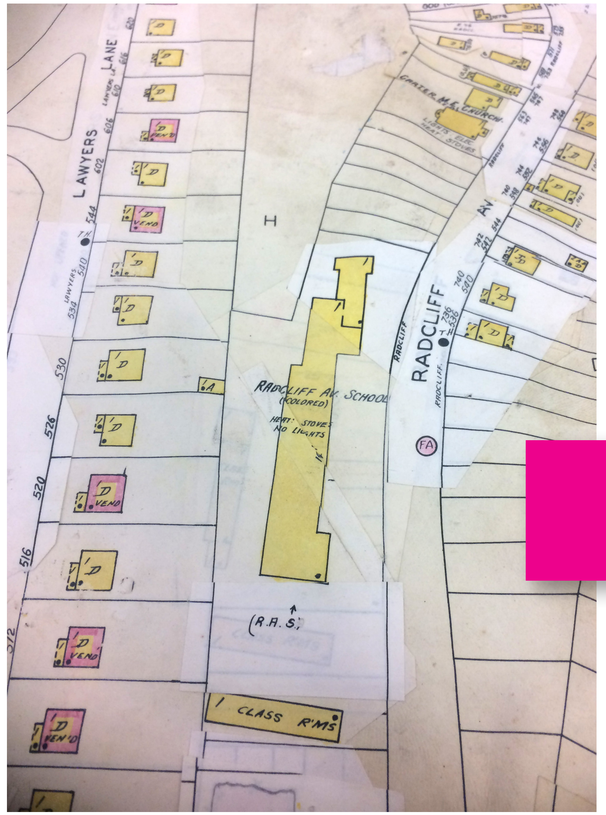
The Radcliff neighborhood once hosted a remarkable school funded in part by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Looking uphill along Radcliff Avenue we see the southern boundary of the Radcliff neighborhood. Made up of churches, a cemetery, and residences built between the 1920s and 1940s, it was also home to a remarkable school — the Wynnton Hill 'Rosenwald' School.

In the post Civil War era, African Americans sought education. But Jim Crow segregation meant that children were routinely denied education in the public-school system. Religious institutions often stepped in to provide education.



Photographs of Wynnton Hill School ca. 1929. *With permission from Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Rosenwald Collection.*



Location of the Radcliff School at the southern end of the Radcliff neighborhood. Sanborn Map Company. Columbus, Muscogee County, 1955. New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co. *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

In 1929, the Radcliff neighborhood received Rosenwald Foundation funding for an elementary school. Named the Wynnton Hill School, it was a one-story wooden building with three classrooms. The building included the Foundation's distinctive tall windows that were placed close together so that there were few shadows in each classroom. The classrooms would be kept warm in the winter with a brick fireplace, and windows could also be opened in the summer to provide much needed cross-ventilation.

Southern African American religious institutions often partnered with northern charities to build schools. One such charity was the Rosenwald Fund. Between 1913 and 1937, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., partnered with local communities. Together, communities funded over 5,000 schools across the South. By 1928, one in five southern rural schools for black students was a Rosenwald school.

Sears, Roebuck and Company logo, 1886–1923. First appeared on mail order catalogs, but is occasionally still used today for promotional purposes.

On the eve of World War II, Wynnton Hill School became a junior high and was renamed the Radcliff School. By 1944, it had become the city's second high school for African Americans. It also welcomed returning World War II veterans as they sought to finish their education and receive a high school diploma — a requirement for well-paying jobs. Radcliff School was destroyed by fire in 1971.

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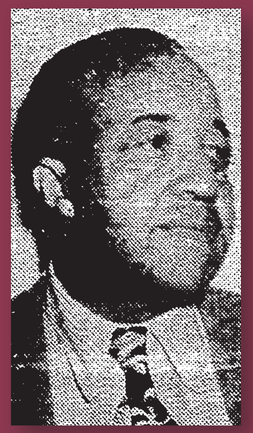
A COURAGEOUS CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Named after one of the city's most influential civil rights leaders — Dr. Thomas H. Brewer (1894–1957), this elementary school (est. 1991), was named in his honor.

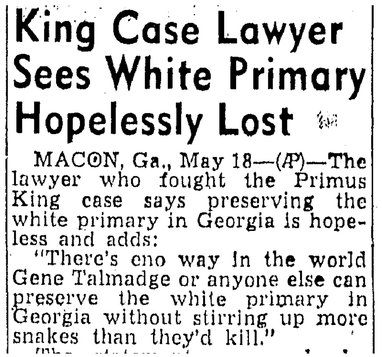


Thomas Brewer. *Ledger-Enquirer,* February 19, 1956. *Courtesy of the Ledger-Enquirer.*

Born in Alabama, Brewer attended college in Selma and obtained his medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Having served in the U.S. Army during World War I, he arrived in Columbus in 1920 to establish a general practice for the city's black residents on First Avenue. Not satisfied with the pace of change in the city, Brewer helped establish the Columbus chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1939.

Throughout Brewer's life, racial segregation shaped all aspects of black life. African Americans could not drink from the same water fountains as whites, eat in the same restaurants, be born in the same hospital, attend the same schools and colleges, swim in the same public pools, borrow books from the same library, sit together on the same bus, or be buried in the same cemetery.

Voting, and access to the ballot box, was also shaped by segregation. During the Jim Crow Era (1870s–1965), the South's elected offices were majority Democrat. There were few Republicans in the region in no small part because of the party's most famous president, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln had led the north's fight to end slavery in the Civil War and most southern states did not welcome Republican candidates. African Americans were barred from voting in all-white state Democratic primary elections.

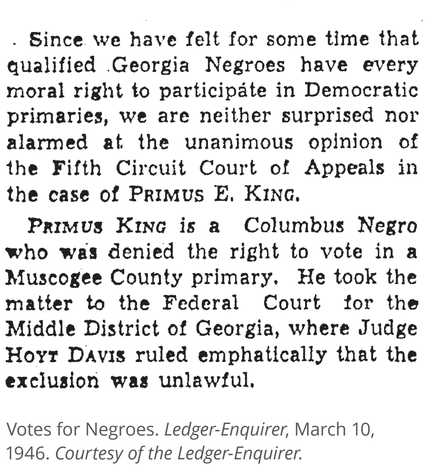


King Case Lawyer Sees White Primary Hopelessly Lost

MACON, Ga., May 18—(AP)—The lawyer who fought the Primus King case says preserving the white primary in Georgia is hopeless and adds:

"There's eno way in the world Gene Talmadge or anyone else can preserve the white primary in Georgia without stirring up more snakes than they'd kill."

The Primus King's case successfully challenged Georgia Governor and white supremacist Gene Talmadge's efforts to retain white-only primary elections. *From 'In Case Lawyer Sees White Primary Hopelessly Lost.' Ledger Enquirer, June 19th, 1946.*



Votes for .Negroes

. Since we have felt for some time that qualified Georgia Negroes have every moral right to participate in Democratic primaries, we are neither surprised nor alarmed at the unanimous opinion of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of PRIMUS E. KING.

PRIMUS KING is a Columbus Negro who was denied the right to vote in a Muscogee County primary. He took the matter to the Federal Court for the Middle District of Georgia, where Judge HOYT DAVIS ruled emphatically that the exclusion was unlawful.

Votes for Negroes. *Ledger-Enquirer,* March 10, 1946. *Courtesy of the Ledger-Enquirer.*

Brewer was one of several local leaders providing financial support for the 1945 Primus King case. Primus King, a Columbus resident, challenged racial exclusion in Democratic primary elections in the mid 1940s. A victory in the King case resulted in African Americans gaining the right to vote in Georgia's Democratic primaries. Following the ruling, 100,000 black voters registered for state elections in Georgia. While Brewer lived and died in a society segregated by race, as a civil rights leader he worked to end segregation and perfect democracy.

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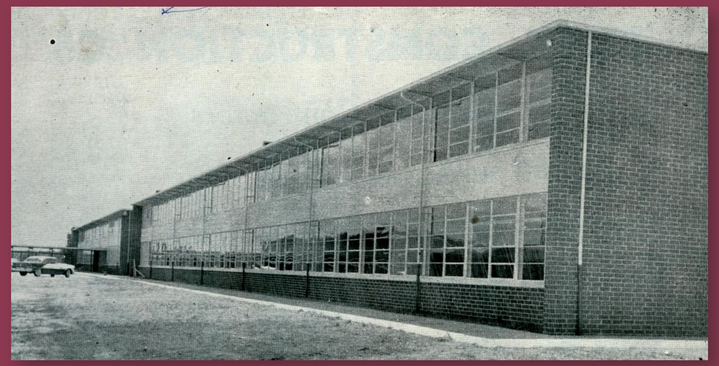
DESEGREGATING CARVER HIGH

Located at the southern edge of the Carver Heights neighborhood, George Washington Carver High School reflects a complex story of school desegregation.



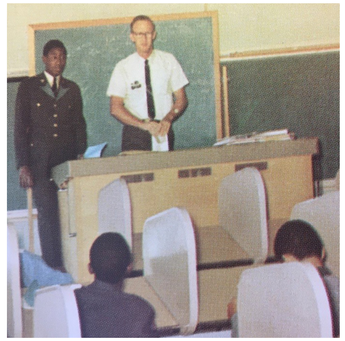
New addition (1960) added to the original school. Source: Carver High School, Columbus Section 1960, Vol. LV, pg. 19, Folder 11. Industrial Index Collection, Box 5. *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

Named after esteemed African American agricultural scientist George Washington Carver (c. 1864 to 1943), the present school was built on the former site of an elementary school (est. 1952) which subsequently became a junior high school in 1954. It added a grade each year until it evolved into a high school. The school you see today opened in 2012 and is home to the school system's largest CTAE program (Career Technical Agricultural Education).

Though the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) declared racially segregated schools unconstitutional, the city's school board did not act immediately. Instead, it continued to separate students into schools based solely on race. The inequalities that Carver students experienced prior to integration included used second-hand books and hand-me-down ROTC uniforms discarded from white schools.

Applications Filed at White Schools by 31 Negroes Entering First Grade

In 1965, African Americans attempted to work for school desegregation through the legal system.



The early desegregation of Carver's classrooms began with teachers in 1968. *From The Tigonian, 1969.*

Carver's first encounter with desegregation involved teachers, not students. In 1968, white and black teachers were transferred to racially different schools. For Carver, this not only meant the loss of beloved, highly qualified and experienced teachers, but the beginning of many misunderstandings. Because incoming white teachers had never taught black students, they often faced difficulties in the classroom. Some were less credentialed than their black counterparts.

In 1970, sixteen years after the *Brown* decision, the Columbus school board finally desegregated students following the federal court order. Each of the city's schools readjusted its student body to a ratio of 30 percent black to 70 percent white students. At Carver, these sudden changes were followed by an increase in behavioral issues and suspensions. Some students feared they would lose their cultural identity as an institution. These tensions were paired with complaints from white parents. After the peak of desegregation efforts in the 1970's and 1980's, students soon began relocating to different schools through permissive transfers. As these requests increased, Carver's student body began to resemble the years before integration. In 2018, the school reported an average of 99 percent minority students.

Segregation continued in the school district until 1970. *From The Tigonian, 1969.*

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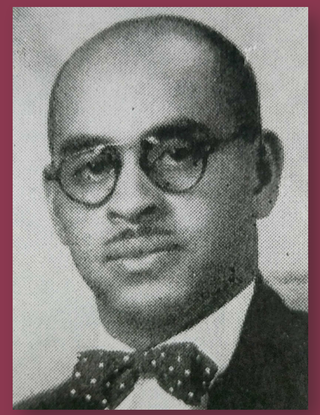
BUILDER OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

E.E. Farley was a business, civic, and civil rights leader who helped establish the city's first segregated, post-World War Two suburb.



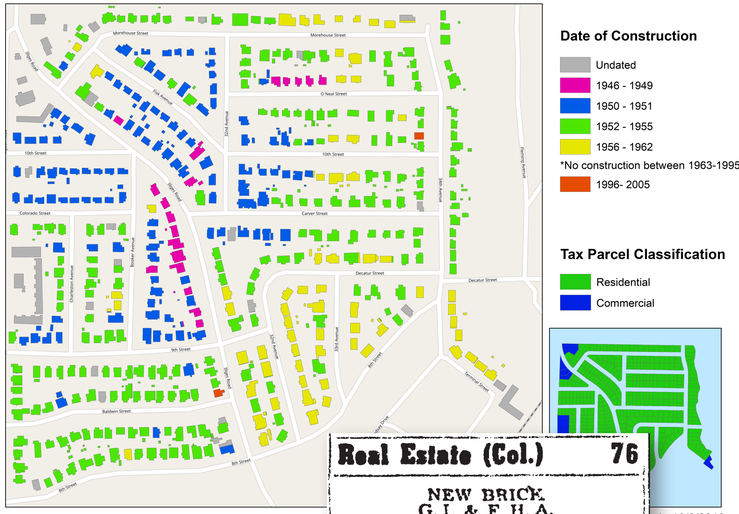
A youthful Edward Edwin Farley. First African Baptist Church, 1949. *One Hundred and Nine Years of Soul Saving and Character Building.* Columbus, GA. First African Baptist Church.

Edward Edwin Farley (ca. 1902–1956) and his wife Ella, moved into their new Carver Heights home in 1954. Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Illges Road and 8th Street, this large brick home reflects the financial success of this business couple. Owners of the Farley Realty Company, the Farley's sold homes to African Americans in the city, including in Carver Heights. A Morehouse College graduate, Farley was active within the local community working alongside other influential civic and civil rights leaders.

The Carver Heights subdivision offered African American veterans and active duty service members the opportunity to use their earned military benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (also known as the GI Bill), to purchase and/or build a home. At least eight additional segregated subdivisions were subsequently constructed in Columbus prior to the Fair Housing Act (1968).

This construction dates map indicates that Carver Heights was developed first in the northeastern sector of Carver Heights with the more recently constructed homes located in the southeastern sector.

Construction Dates of the Carver Heights Subdivision



holt, 10/2/2018

Real Estate (Col.) 76

NEW BRICK.
G. I. & F. H. A.
HOMES

In beautiful Carver Heights. Large lots. Hardwood floors. All modern conveniences. Will build to suit you.

FARLEY REALTY CO.
1636-5th Ave. Dial 3-8576

Farley Realty Company's advert in the 'Colored Real Estate Section' of the Columbus-Enquirer March 3, 1950. *Courtesy of the Ledger-Enquirer.*

CARVER HEIGHTS
COLORED SUBDIVISION
LOTS & HOMES FOR SALE
at REASONABLE PRICES!
APPROVED FOR BOTH G.I. & F.H.A.
Will Build to Suit You!
FOR INFORMATION SEE FARLEY REALTY CO.
836 5th Ave. Dial 3-8576
Call us FOR YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
WE CAN Save YOU MONEY ON DWELLING FURNITURE AUTO AND OTHER COVERAGES

Sign advertising both lots and homes in the newly developing Carver Heights subdivision purchased through Farley Realty Co. *Courtesy Columbus State University archives.*

Finding accommodation was challenging for newly arriving black middle class in the post-war period. Like many of their neighbors, the Farleys regularly rented rooms upstairs to recently graduated school teachers from Tuskegee Institute. These professional women regularly relocated to the city for their first teaching position. This trend extended across the neighborhood as homeowners rented rooms to African American military families, who, unlike their white counterparts, found very little housing at Fort Benning.

Students standing in front of the EE Farley Home n.d. Courtesy *Columbus State University archives.*

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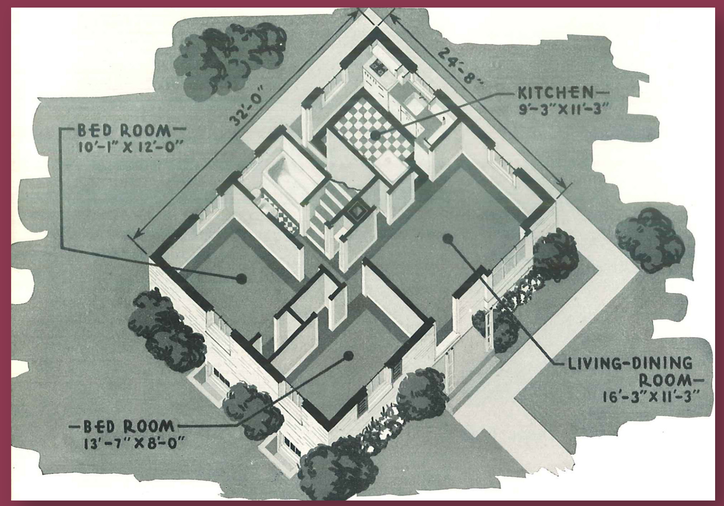
BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

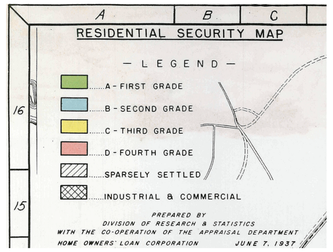
At a time of institutional segregation, the Carver Heights neighborhood gave African Americans access to the American dream: homeownership built using a new architectural style—the American Small House.



Two-bed brick home floor plan 'A', one example of an American Small House. From National Plan Service, Inc., 1949 National homes of moderate cost. Chicago, IL: National Plan Service, p.18.

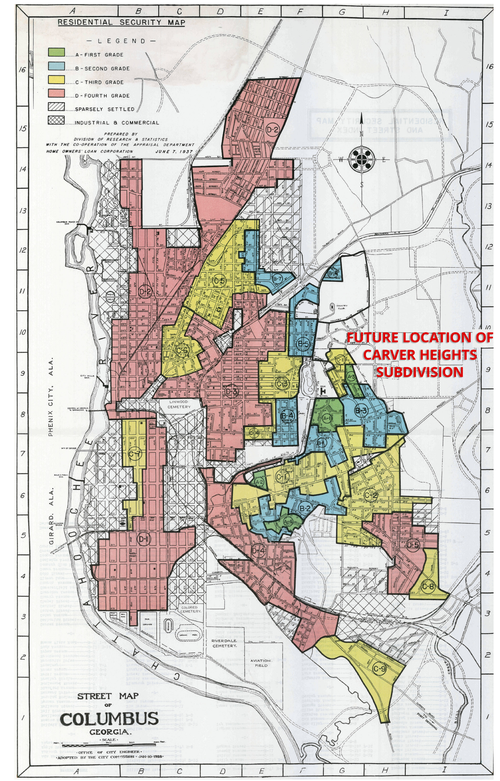
Built on farmland, just outside the city's boundaries, Carver Heights saw the construction of over 430 homes between the late 1940s and early 1960s.

Using the American Small House design, these single-story, box floor plans included small rooms situated around a core. With brick facades and modest porches, often decorated with iron porch columns, this style emerged during the Great Depression. It reached its climax during the nationwide housing shortage after World War II. With resources and labor in short supply, the American Small House met a clear national goal to provide well-designed, well-built, affordable, single-family homes. The two-bedroomed versions were often the most common, as it was the smallest house that could receive a mortgage. At the end of World War II, some of the 100,000 African Americans who had trained at Fort Benning were ready to settle down. In serving their country, these veterans qualified for home loans guaranteed in the GI Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act 1949).



The Columbus Residential Security Map shows areas of the city where banks would not provide loans to those seeking to buy a home. Areas in red 'D' were deemed 'hazardous.' Green 'A' areas were defined as best, 'B' was defined as 'still desirable" and 'C' was defined as 'Definitely Declining.' *From Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) Map, June 7, 1937.*

However, bank managers and insurance agents routinely denied services to people and city regions considered to be a poor financial risk—a process known as redlining. Banks would only make mortgages for new homes and so would-be home owners could only buy property in new suburbs. City maps showing these 'high-risk' areas identify regions that saw little to no reinvestment. Until the Fair Housing Act (1968), suburb developers could legally discriminate against African American and Jewish peoples. Thus, many suburbs were only open to white, Christian homeowners. Between 1945–1968, segregated suburbs were the only way that the black middle class (teachers, nurses, ministers, Realtors, and employees of the local businesses and factories) could access a mortgage to purchase a home. Carver Heights is a remarkable symbol of the growing black middle-class, in this mid-century, southern, military city.



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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

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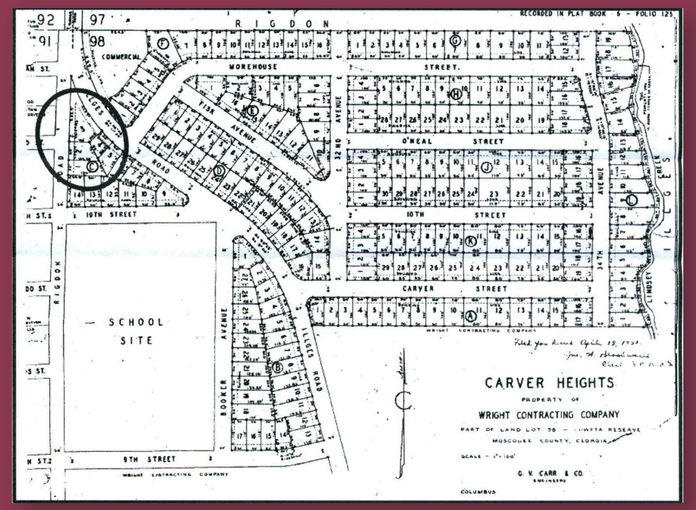
HOME AWAY FROM HOME

In segregated, Jim Crow America, the Carver Heights Motel welcomed African American travelers, while also offering a central location to recruit young, civil rights activists.



Original plat of Carver Heights. Carver Heights Plat Map drawn to scale showing each residential lot of sale. **Note:** The subdivision was subsequently extended to the south along with the location of the school. From Plat Book 6, Folio 125. Grover V. Carr Papers (MC 101) *Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.*

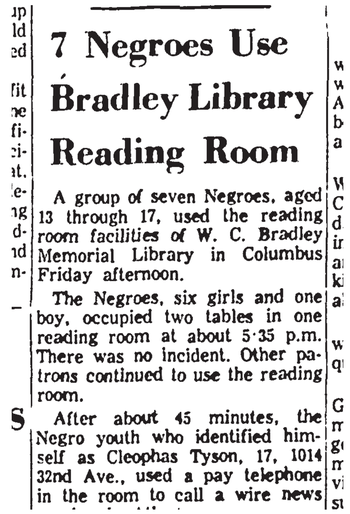
Built in 1950 using a v-shape design with 12 en-suite rooms, the Carver Heights Motel anchored this mid-century commercial district. This shopping area included a grocery store, drive-through restaurant, gas station, liquor store, the Wash House Laundry, Becky's Beauty Parlor, and the Penny Profit.

Jim Crow laws across the nation meant that African Americans could never be confident in finding welcoming places to eat and sleep. This situation, coupled with an emerging and more mobile African American middle-class, led Victor Hugo Green to publish the *Negro Travelers' Green Book* (1936). Organized by state and city, Green's guide was sold primarily at Esso gas stations who both welcomed African American customers, and often franchised gas stations to black businessmen. These guides including business that offered lodging, food and other necessary services for travelers.

Published between 1936 and 1967, the *Negro Travelers Green Book* helped African Americans travel across the nation. *From Green, V H. 1956. The Negro Travelers' Green Book. New York: Victor H. Green & Company.*

Recognizing the importance of Green's Guide, the *Ledger-Enquirer* noted in 1950 that the new Carver Heights Motel was featured in the publication. It was one of three places providing lodging for African Americans — the others being Lowe's Hotel and the YMCA. Today, the Carver Heights Motel is the only lodging still standing mentioned in the Green Book.

It was in 1963, that the Carver Heights community and motel played a remarkable role in the city's civil rights history. Arriving that summer, representatives from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) rented rooms in the motel. They came to recruit and train students to lead efforts to desegregate the city's public libraries. They recruited teenagers from Carver High School a few blocks south who regularly visited the local stores to buy soda, candy, and run family errands. The community was made up of many military families. The sons and daughters of those families made excellent recruits as their parents were somewhat protected from the anger of local, white employers. However, at least one father who was hired by a local company lost his job because his son took part in this nonviolent civil disobedience to desegregate the city's libraries.



7 Negroes Use Bradley Library Reading Room

A group of seven Negroes, aged 13 through 17, used the reading room facilities of W. C. Bradley Memorial Library in Columbus Friday afternoon.

The Negroes, six girls and one boy, occupied two tables in one reading room at about 5:35 p.m. There was no incident. Other patrons continued to use the reading room.

After about 45 minutes, the Negro youth who identified himself as Cleophas Tyson, 17, 1014 32nd Ave., used a pay telephone in the room to call a wire news

7 Negroes Use Bradley Library Reading Room. *Columbus Daily Enquirer. July 7, 1963.*

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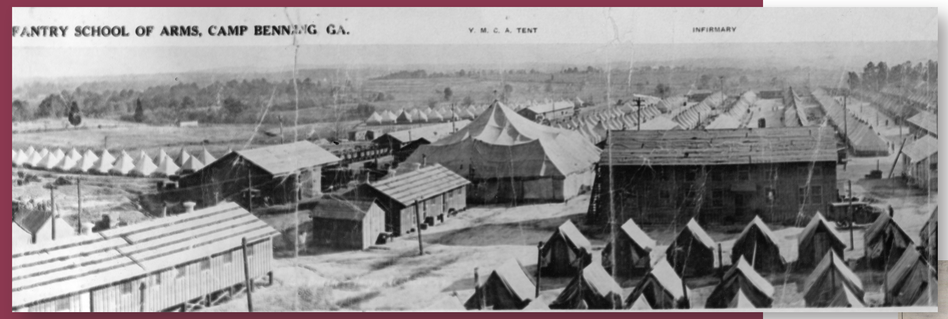
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. OUTDOOR LEARNING TRAIL

ATTEN-SHUN!

Welcome to the Martin Luther King Jr. Outdoor Learning Trail. Join us as we travel in the footsteps of black civic and civil rights leaders, and explore the impact of segregation on this southern military city.



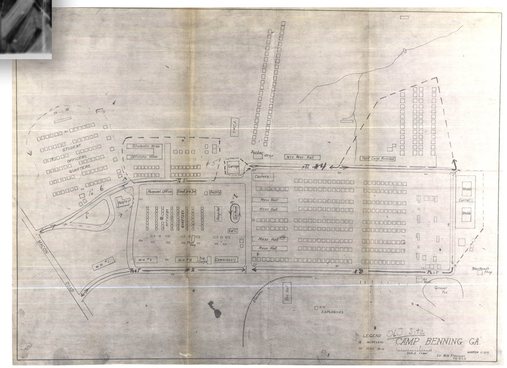
Panorama of Camp Benning. *Courtesy of the National Infantry Museum.*

Looking up the hill into a tree-filled subdivision built in the mid-20th century, we are also looking at the first location of Camp Benning. Named for Confederate brigadier general Henry L. Benning, Camp Benning (est. 1918) trained soldiers for World War I. In 1920 Camp Benning was renamed Fort Benning and moved to its present location, six miles south of this site.

In 2018, a century after its founding, Fort Benning welcomed its first African American commanding general.

The 24th Infantry "Buffalo Soldiers" play a central role in Fort Benning's has a long tradition of training African American soldiers and leaders. One of the first all-black infantry regiments in the post-Civil War army, they won distinction in the West, the Philippines, and Cuba. However, after the end of World War I, the regiment was re-designated as "school troops" at Fort Benning. Soldiers chiefly worked as cooks and laborers — not line infantry. School troops built the base infrastructure of roads, housing, firing ranges, the gymnasium and PX (Post Exchange), Gowdy Field (baseball), and Doughboy Stadium (football).

One such "school troop" soldier was Pvt. Felix Hall (1922–1941). Hall worked in the post's wood mill. Born in Alabama, he and several of his brothers joined the Army just prior to World War II. A jovial, talkative young man, Hall was a prankster. Although racial violence exploded on several installations during the war, only one lynching was recorded on a military base. According to a 1941 FBI report, the body of 19-year old Hall was found hung from a tree close to the barracks. The murder was never solved.



On December, 30 1943, an all-black company—including officers—was activated and began airborne training at Fort Benning. Later designated A Company in the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the unit never went overseas.

Top: 124th Infantry Soldiers polishing saddles.
Courtesy of the National Infantry Museum.

Left: Location of Camp Benning along Macon Road.
Courtesy of Department of Public Works, Ft Benning, GA

Just as the military reflected contemporary social relations, it also worked to change them. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order to abolish racial discrimination in the armed forces. But it took the Korean War to bring any real integration, where the 24th Infantry again led the way.

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